

MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 2024
VERMILION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

Vice-President Anita Dupuis called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. The meeting was held at the Vermilion Parish Government Office Complex, 407 Charity Street, Abbeville, La.

Mr. Ben Rivera led the Pledge of Allegiance before Ms. Dupuis requested a moment of silence.

The following members were present at the meeting: Mr. Ruben Rivera, Mr. Richard Guilbeaux, Ms. Kristin Vincent, Ms. Claire Broussard, Ms. Anne T. Falgout, Mr. Joshua Anderson, Ms. Anita Dupuis, Ms. Nikki Vidos, Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet and Ms. Linda Vincent

The following members were absent: Mr. Patrick Duhon, Mr. Elliot Broussard, Ms. Megan Landry-Lalande and Mr. Jacob Landry

The following guests were present: Ms. Kayla Link, VEDA, Ms. Shari Cormier, VEDA, and Ms. Ruth Broussard

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments regarding any of the items on the agenda.

MINUTES: The minutes of the July 10, 2024, meeting were approved as written on a motion made by Ms. Anne Falgout. Mr. Ben Rivera duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Linda Vincent entered the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Nikki Vidos presented the Treasurer's Report. The board was provided with a list of invoices and expenses totaling \$3,456.85. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the invoices. Ms. Anita Dupuis duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Ms. Claire Broussard entered the meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Ms. Kayla Link provided the board with her July administrative report. Ms. Link noted that she completed one visit with an existing business and engaged with one landowner about possible development. She updated the board on the existing business prospects/projects and reviewed existing opportunities available to the parish. She informed the board that the Vermilion Parish Job Fair, held on July 24, 2024, had 32 business and resource provider booths as well as 130 jobseekers. Ms. Link attended One Acadiana's Legislative Recap and noted a focus on insurance reform, making Louisiana more business friendly and LED reorganization.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Nikki Vidos led the update for the Transition Committee. She noted that Ms. Link has resigned from her position as Economic Development Liaison and will be leaving VEDD at the end of August. Ms. Vidos also noted the need to complete a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with One Acadiana as VEDD's current agreement has expired. This MOU defines the relationship between VEDD and One Acadiana and allows VEDD a seat on the One Acadiana board. Mr. Ben Rivera motioned the board to allow Mr. Patrick Duhon to sign the MOU on behalf of the organization. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux informed the board that he has begun conversations with legal counsel and legislative representatives about deactivating the board at the end of December. He noted that the state will be contacted to determine what steps need to be taken in this process. Mr. Guilbeaux then motioned the board to go into executive session. Mr. Ben Rivera duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried. The board left the executive session with a motion from Ms. Anne Falgout. Ms. Claire Broussard duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried. Ms. Vidos then noted that in the absence of an Executive Director, the board would like to offer Ms. Cormier an amended role to

take on some of the extra responsibilities needed before the end the year. This role would come with an hourly pay increase to \$17 per hour, for a 30-hour work week, to begin on the first day of the next pay period. Mr. Richard Guilbeaux motioned the board to approve Ms. Cormier's pay increase. Ms. Anne Falgout duly seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Ms. Claire Broussard gave the update for the Workforce Development Committee. She noted that she is working with the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce to have them take over VEDD's workforce efforts with the Vermilion Parish School Board. Ms. Link noted that she was able to recruit 2 additional businesses into the workforce program with 4 internships provided by those businesses.

Ms. Kristy Doucet-Touchet left the meeting.

Ms. Kayla Link updated the board on the Hometown Revitalization Program Committee. She met with Seller's and Associates as they are the administrators of the grant. She noted that the requested data was submitted for the Erath project, but approval to move forward with that project is still pending from the Office of Community Development. Mr. Guilbeaux noted that the Vermilion Parish Police Jury has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent for the Kaplan project.

Ms. Anne Falgout gave the update for the Communications and Promotions Committee, stating that they will be there to assist with any needs over the coming months. The board discussed preparations that will need to be discussed within the coming months regarding website and social media information.

There was no update from the Business and Industry Development Committee.

OLD BUSINESS: Ms. Claire Broussard informed the board that Ms. Lauren Trahan with the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce may be attending the WorkKeys/Work Ready Community Workshop in her place, but if Ms. Trahan is unable to attend then she will attend.

Ms. Link provided the board with a copy of the Lantern Award nomination letter that was submitted by VEDD nominating Acadian Contractors for the award.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES: The board members spoke about the areas they represent and shared things happening in their communities.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held at 5:30pm on Wednesday, September 11, 2024.

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Ms. Nikki Vidos, duly seconded by Ms. Claire Broussard and unanimously carried, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. Anne T. Falgout
Secretary